

Gossip: One of the Most Overlooked Sins

1 Timothy 3:8,11

Introduction:

- What are some things that you never overlook?
 - 1.
 - 2.
- What are some things that you might overlook?
 - 1.
 - 2.
- What are some sins that people NEVER overlook?
 - (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____
- What are some sins that believers might tend to ignore?
 - (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____
- In our study of 1 Timothy 3:8,11, we are going to look at one of the most overlooked sins - gossip.
 1. Both men and women d_____ must not have this weakness.
 2. From this lesson you will learn:
 - a. How to identify gossip.
 - b. What actions to take to prevent its damage to any relationships and to the church.

How do you identify gossip?

- Two qualifying words are used having to do with the use of the tongue:
 1. Verse 8 – *not d_____ -tongued* (this is the most literal translation; NLT and NIV use positive words – *sincere, having integrity*).
 2. Verse 11 – *not malicious gossips* (other versions – *not slanderers*). The Greek word is *diabolos*, where we get our word diabolic. It is the same word for the d_____ in verses 6,7.
 - a. Satan uses words to:
 - 1) A_____ (1 Pet 5:8; Rev 12:10)
 - 2) L_____ (Jn 8:44)
 - 3) D_____ (Rev 20:7,8)
 - b. Satan does the above to d_____ a person's character. He did this to:
 - 1) J_____ (Job 1:11)

2) G_____ (Gen 3:4)

●Gossip is any speech that either i_____ to damage one's character or r_____ in that damage. Examples:

1. Spreading r_____
2. Betraying s_____
3. Group p_____ requests that exposes unknown negative information that is damaging to a person's character.

How must you handle gossip?

●Gal 6:1 – You must g_____ correct those who gossip.

●Matt 18:15-18 – You must go to the source (the person who is the object of the negative talk) p_____.

1. If the rumor is true – encourage the person to r_____.
If they repent, great. If they don't repent, then proceed through the steps.
2. If the rumor is false
 - a. Go to the person who gave you this false information
 - 1) Give them the t_____.
 - 2) Tell them to spread the truth to the person they got the information from.
 - 3) Tell them to instruct the person they got the information from to do the same.
 - b. The above process is to be r_____ until everyone has the truth.

●Prov 20:19 – Do not a_____ with a gossipier.

1. Listening to gossip just e_____ this sin.
2. If the gossipier claims to be a believer, you must apply the steps of Matt 18:15-18 before applying this proverb.

How can you avoid gossip?

●Never share n_____ information about someone just for the sake of information.

●When someone shares in confidence negative information about someone, make certain:

1. It is for the purpose of p_____
2. It involves pursuing s_____ in resolving issues.

●Focus on speaking p_____ words (Eph 4:29)